

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T STATE 002705

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT SEOUL 64 ACTION SECSTATE DATED 1/7/75;

QUOTE S E C R E T SEOUL 0064

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS CINCPAC

JOINT EMBASSY COUMUSK MSG.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS KS

SUBJECT: F4DS AND THIRD COUNTRY PURCHASES

REF: A STATE 284413; B STATE 001812

1. IN SEPARATE MEETINGS ON JANUARY 4 AND 6 CINCUNC
AND CHIEF JUSMAG INFORMED DEFENSE MINISTER SUH AND
MND ASST MINISTER PAEK SOK-CHU RESPECTIVELY OF F-4D
DECISION AND CONVEYED INFORMATION CONTAINED REF A. MND
SUH WAS THOROUGHLY PLEASED WITH NEWS, INDICATED TO
CINCUNC ROKG AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE ON BASIS TERMS
OFFERED AND ASKED ONLY IF FMS CASH PAYMENT COULD BE
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MADE OVER MORE THAN ONE YEAR PERIOD. IN JANUARY 6

CONVERSATION ASSISTANT MINISTER PAEK ALSO INDICATED TO CHIEF JUSMAG THAT ROKS WOULD AGREE TO \$2.4 MILLION COST AND SEPARATE NEGOTIATION FOR AGE AND SPARE ENGINES.

2. BOTH ROK OFFICIALS REACTED WITH RESERVATION TO REQUEST THAT ROKG ASSUME COST OF REHABILITATING F-5AS. MINISTER TOLD CINCUNC THAT THIS VERY HARD QUESTION WHICH BOILED DOWN TO WHETHER ROKS NOW HAD FINANCIAL CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO VVIETNAM, GIVEN ALL OTHER COMPETING DEMANDS ON BUDGET. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION PAEK SUGGESTED TO THE JUSMAG THAT IT WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE IF US SIMPLY ASKED FOR \$4.1 MILLION DONATION FOR VIETNAM RATHER THAN QUID PRO QUO INVOLVING F5-AS; ROK MILITARY HE SAID MIGHT BE ABLE PROVIDE EQUIVALENT AMOUNT OF POL, AMMUNITION, ETC.
3. THIRD COUNTRY PURCHASES

MINISTER SUH RAISED SUBJECT OF EXOCET MISSILE AND TOLD GENERAL STILWELL THAT ROKS CLEARLY PREFERRED US EQUIPMENT AND SPECIFICALLY CONSIDERED US HARPOON SUPERIOR TO EXOCET. HOWEVER, HARPOON WOULD BEGIN ARRIVING YEAR AFTER NEEDED AND UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THERE WAS NO WAY HE COULD RECOMMEND TO PRESIDENT PARK THAT ROKG NOT BUY EXOCET, WHICH AVAILABLE AUGUST, 1975. SPEAKING ON BEHALF ROKG, SUH LATER SAID IN RESPONSE CINCUNC'S QUESTION THAT US DECISION TO PROVIDE HARPOONS IN TIME TO MEET PSSM CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE WOULD RESULT IN HARPOON ONLY PURCHASE. IN LATER JAN 6 CONVERSATION ASSISTANT MINISTER PAEK INITIALLY CONTINUED TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF PUTTING EXOCETS ON KOREAN BUILT PKS REGARDLESS; HOWEVER IN CONCLUDING HE AMPLIFIED MINDEF'S AND MND'S LAST STATEMENT TO STILWELL SAYING THAT MINISTER WOULD NEED FIRM OFFER OF EARLY HARPOON DELIVERY "ON PAPER."

4. CHIEF JUSMAG REEMPHASIZED DIFFICULTIES EXOCET (AND SUBMARINE) PURCHASES WOULD

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CAUSE US. CINCUN MADE CLEAR WE WERE CONSIDERING EARLIER HARPOON DELIVERY. CHIEF JUSMAG POINTED OUT THAT EXOCET COST MIGHT BE \$60 MILLION AND THAT THIS MONEY COULD BE SPENT FAR MORE WISELY ELSEWHERE; AND HE ALSO MADE POINT THAT WE EXPECTED FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT VERY SHORTLY AND THAT WE EXPECTED ROKS TO WITHHOLD ANY FINAL EXOCET DECISION UNTIL WE HAD FURTHER HEARING.

SNEIDER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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